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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 68% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 75,315 | Nifty 23,649 | Gold 1,59,332 | Silver 2,76,602 | Dollar 96.28 | Euro 112.26 | GBP 129.68

MURDER MOST FOUL

Bengaluru reported 176 murder cases in a single year, which puts it second on the violent crime list in country, after Delhi

PAGE 3

GREEN MONEY TRAIL

Green Tribunal seeks details of expenditure from environmental compensation funds received in last 3 years, asks state pollution board to disclose audit status

PAGE 5

With non-stop honking robbing city's peace, traffic police have managed to find fewer than 150 vehicles in violation till March this year; trucks, private buses, water tankers and school buses commonly install shrill horns illegally, but are rarely penalised

HORN (NOT OK) PLEASE

High noise levels recorded at monitoring stations in residential areas, silent zones

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even as Bengaluru continues to record high noise pollution levels, action against illegally installed horns in the city remains low.

Fewer than 150 cases of shrill horns have been booked by Bengaluru Traffic Police between January and March in 2026. Out of these, 62 challans were issued against shrill horns in January, 43 in February, and 35 challans against vehicles using shrill horns were issued in March.

Noise pollution monitoring stations by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, however, have recorded high noise levels in residential areas and silent zones in the city throughout the three months.

The RV College of Engineering (RVCE) on Mysore Road falls in the silent zone of the city. As per noise pollution rules by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the noise levels in the area during the day should not exceed 50 decibels (dB), and during the night, they should be under 40 decibels.

However, noise pollution readings from monitoring stations show that the monthly average decibel values around RVCE in March reached nearly 90 decibels during the day as well as at night. The average monthly noise level in the

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> **"The issue of a large number of vehicles using shrill and multitonal horns can be controlled if the penalty imposed for such an offence is increased. Registration license of repeat offenders should be cancelled**
>
> —Raja Kannan, an anti-noise pollution activist

Caution: Crash-prone area

NHAI installs markings, delineators after traffic police demand urgent safety measures at dangerous Chikkasane Gate

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Be careful while travelling towards popular destinations such as Nandi Hills and the Isha Foundation as the number of fatal accidents on this stretch of the National Highway-44 within the Devanahalli Traffic Police station limits has even the officials worried.

So much so that the traffic police had to shoot off three letters to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), urging immediate implementation of safety measures near Chikkasane Gate, which has been identified as one of the most accident-prone stretches on the highway.

Finally, the NHAI Authorities have laid thermoplastic pavement markings and road safety delineators at the location.

In a letter addressed to the Project Director of NHAI, Bengaluru Division, the Devanahalli traffic inspector pointed out that NH-44 recorded the highest number of fatal accidents in the jurisdiction during 2025.

According to accident statistics, 83 accidents were reported on the stretch in 2025, claiming 32 lives and leaving 104 people injured. Officials said the accidents have continued in 2026 as well, with 63 accident cases reported till May 14, resulting in 21 deaths and 80 injuries. Of the 104 injured in 2025, 42 suffered grievous injuries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Drawn to heritage

Author Divya Ramachandran brings the launch of 'Meera and the Magic Kolam', a story that celebrates imagination, tradition and self-expression, along with a two-hour interactive kolam session and workshop highlighting heritage and creativity.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: May 24, 2.30 pm

02 Crafted delights

Dastkar Bazaar presents its 25th edition with 160+ craft groups bringing authentic handcrafted merchandise across textiles, pottery, jewellery and wellness products, while also supporting artisans affected by the recent Delhi fire.
Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel;
When: May 29 to June 4, 10.30 am to 8 pm

03 Radiant rhythm

Candlelight® by Live Your City returns to Bengaluru this season, offering audiences intimate evenings where thousands of glowing candles transform venues into immersive settings for unforgettable live music experiences.
Where: Samarthanam Auditorium- Managed by Theatrenama;
When: May 30, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm

04 Simple joys

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes.
Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City;
When: Until May 30

05 Catch of the season

Loco Lane transforms match-day into a premium fan sanctuary, offering all-inclusive IPL screenings with gourmet dining and the comfort of premium box seating for an elevated experience.
Where: Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar;
When: Until May 31, 5 pm

Separate engineering and medical counselling likely?

Following NEET retest announcement and delayed schedule, officials reportedly plan to explore alternative mechanisms to ensure engineering admissions begin on time

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File photo of protests against cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 and re-examination over paper leak

Senior officials say once results are declared, Higher Education Department and KEA will likely hold detailed consultations before making final call on seat allotments this year

The uncertainty surrounding the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) examination, following allegations of question paper leaks and the announcement of a re-examination on June 21, is likely to trigger a major change in Karnataka's professional course admission process this year. The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is seriously considering conducting engineering seat allotment separately and ahead of medical admissions instead of continuing the combined counselling system followed since 2023. Officials fear that waiting for NEET results, which may now be delayed until late July or even August, could severely disrupt the engineering academic calendar across the state. As a result, the government and KEA are exploring alternative mechanisms to ensure engineering admissions begin on time without depending on the delayed medical counselling schedule.

Until now, KEA had been conducting simultaneous counselling for engineering and medical seats, allowing students to make informed choices across both streams. However, the NEET delay has complicated the process significantly. Authorities believe that if engineering admissions are held independently before NEET results are announced, students with strong CET ranks can secure seats in preferred engineering colleges without waiting for the medical admission process. At the same time, officials are also concerned that many students may later abandon their engineering seats if they secure medical admissions after the NEET results, leading to vacancies and uncertainty during subsequent counselling rounds. This could particularly affect lower-ranked engineering aspirants who may lose opportunities in the initial allotment process.

Officials said the counselling roadmap now largely depends on the announcement of CET results, expected later this month. Senior officials said that once results are declared, the Higher Education Department and KEA will likely hold detailed consultations before making a final call on whether to officially separate engineering and medical seat allotment this year. Authorities are under pressure to avoid repeating previous delays that pushed admissions and academic schedules deep into the year. Officials noted that if counselling is postponed until NEET results are released and medical admissions are completed, the entire engineering admission cycle may stretch until October, disrupting classes and the overall academic calendar for colleges across Karnataka.

Private engineering colleges have reportedly already submitted proposals seeking an independent counselling process to prevent delays in admissions and seat occupancy. Karnataka Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar confirmed that the government is closely monitoring the NEET situation and will make an appropriate decision if the delay continues. KEA officials said the final decision would be made only after discussions with the government, keeping students' interests as the top priority.

Officials believe the coming weeks will be crucial in deciding whether Karnataka shifts to a completely separate counselling model for engineering admissions for the first time in recent years.

Bikers rally for skin donation

Around 75 bikers took part in a skin donation awareness rally in Bengaluru on Sunday, organised by Tusker Harley Owners Group Bengaluru, Rotary Bangalore Midtown and Victoria Hospital in association with the Government of Karnataka. The rally began at Victoria Hospital and ended at Vidhana Soudha to spread awareness about the need for skin donation in the treatment of burn victims. Participants also signed a pledge supporting skin donation. Dr Smitha Segu, Professor and Head of Unit, Department of Plastic Surgery at Victoria Hospital, said skin donation plays an important role in the treatment and recovery of patients with severe burns, many of whom require skin grafts for medical care. **–BMB**

K'taka legacy on spotlight for International Museum Day

To mark International Museum Day, the Venkatappa Art Gallery on Kasturba Road is hosting a week-long exhibition featuring the historic Halmidi inscription, regarded as the earliest known Kannada inscription, along with rare photographs of Karnataka's ancient temples. The exhibition, organised by the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, will continue until May 24. The showcase will include temple photographs captured by retired information department officer T Kempanna, while epigraphy expert Dr KR Ganesh will deliver a lecture on 'Cultural Unity in Inscriptions'. Museum Director Dr Smita Reddy said the exhibition offers students, researchers, history enthusiasts and the public a rare opportunity to closely view the Halmidi inscription and explore Karnataka's rich historical heritage. **–BMB**

Years later, Kempegowda Layout gets light at last

After nearly nine years of complaints over poor infrastructure and dark streets, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout has finally begun lighting up. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has accelerated pending civic works and installed over 9,000 LED streetlights following sustained protests and legal battles by residents and site owners. Of the planned 9,899 streetlights, around 9,082 have already been installed, while power connections have been provided to nearly 3,900 lights so far. Officials say the remaining work is expected to be completed by the second week of June.

Spread across nearly 2,800 acres with over 30,000 sites, the ambitious BDA layout had long faced criticism despite allotments made between 2016 and 2018. Residents complained of missing basic infrastructure, including roads, electricity and water supply. While around 85 per cent of road work is now complete, issues such as water connections, site numbering and cable theft continue to trouble the area. **–BMB**

SKIES OPEN

Several parts of the city witnessed heavy rain on Monday evening; before citizens could find relief from the heat, waterlogged streets spoilt the fun **Pics: Kaushik JN**

Murder surge raises questions over urban safety and policing

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Bengaluru is witnessing an alarming rise in violent crime, with the city recording an average of three to four murders every week, according to the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau. The NCRB figures show that Bengaluru reported 176 murder cases in a single year, making it the city with the second-highest number of murders among major Indian metropolitan centres, behind only Delhi.

Delhi topped the list with 499 murders, while Bengaluru recorded significantly higher murder numbers than cities such as Mumbai (106), Chennai (105), Hyderabad (89), Kolkata (57) and Pune (94). The data translates to nearly 15 murders every month and one killing every two days in Bengaluru.

The NCRB report further showed that Bengaluru's murder rate stood at 2.1 per lakh population, above the national average of 1.7 among major cities. The city's murder rate was also substantially higher than Mumbai's 0.6, Kolkata's 0.4, Hyderabad's 1.1 and Chennai's 1.2.

Crime analysts said the figures pointed to deeper structural and social stress building within Bengaluru's rapidly expanding urban landscape. "Bengaluru is undergoing a transition from a traditionally low-violence city into a highly fragmented metropolitan region where economic inequality, migration pressures, local rivalries and social stress are increasingly contributing to violent crimes," said a criminologist tracking urban crime patterns.

NCRB data reveals rising murders, exposing growing social tensions, weak surveillance systems and mounting pressure on law enforcement

Experts noted that, unlike stereotypical gangland killings associated with some metro cities, a significant share of Bengaluru's murders stemmed from interpersonal conflicts, domestic violence, revenge attacks, financial disputes, road rage and property-related clashes. "What is worrying is the increasing normalisation of extreme violence over everyday disputes. Arguments that once ended at police stations are now escalating into fatal assaults," a retired senior police officer said.

Urban planners argued that Bengaluru's physical expansion had outpaced its policing infrastructure. Large portions of the city's rapidly developing outskirts continued to face poor surveillance coverage, inadequate street lighting and delayed emergency response systems.

Several experts said Bengaluru's transformation into a 24/7 economic hub had altered crime patterns. Late-night mobility, isolated residential clusters, expanding nightlife zones and growing floating populations had collectively added pressure on law enforcement systems.

The data assumes significance as Bengaluru continues to attract lakhs of professionals, students and migrant workers every year. Experts warned that safety concerns could affect the city's global image and quality of urban life.

"Cities cannot focus only on economic growth while neglecting social infrastructure and policing reforms. Public safety is now directly linked to urban competitiveness," an urban governance expert said.

The NCRB report also showed that Bengaluru recorded no cases under the category of murder by groups of five or more persons under Section 103(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. However, experts said the volume of individual murder cases reflected growing urban volatility.

Delivery executive robbed of cash and belongings by unidentified man

A delivery executive was allegedly robbed by two unidentified middle-aged men near Nagarathapura main road on Saturday around 5.56 pm, after the accused approached him during a commotion and fled with his belongings on a scooter, police said.

According to the complaint filed by Shamba Mitra, the victim was carrying out parcel delivery work when the incident took place. The accused allegedly snatched the complainant's headset, parcel bag and around ₹5,000 in cash before fleeing the spot on a scooter bearing registration number KA-51-EV-4171.

Police said the complainant later approached the station and lodged a complaint seeking legal action against the accused and recovery of the stolen items. Based on the complaint, police registered a case.

Investigators are examining CCTV footage from nearby areas and trying to trace the suspects using the scooter registration details. **BMB**

Elderly woman rescued, shifted to shelter

A 65-year-old woman, identified as Sharadamma, was found lying unconscious when a person noticed her on the roadside at DK Nayaka Nagar, Jayanagar 5th Block, on May 17 around 8.38 am.

The person immediately alerted the emergency helpline, following which Hoysala 208 personnel from Tilak Nagar police station reached the spot within eight minutes.

The officers provided immediate assistance to the elderly woman and later learnt that she had no one to care for her. The police then shifted her to Aira Humanitarian Home in Bannerghatta and ensured she received proper shelter, medical attention and care. **BMB**

Couple counselled after suicide attempt averted

After a quarrel broke out between a husband and wife on May 17 around 4.14 pm, the wife attempted suicide due to severe mental distress. Namma 112 was contacted, and Hoysala 220 from K R Puram police station reached the couple's residence on 2nd Main Road, Ayyappa Nagar, within nine minutes.

On arrival, the officers found the woman in severe emotional distress and attempting to hang herself. They quickly intervened and prevented the suicide attempt.

The officers later ensured the woman's safety, while ASI P Veena counselled her and provided emotional support and reassurance.

The officials also advised the husband and counselled the couple before ensuring their safety and wellbeing. **BMB**

Lease deposit scam leaves tenants stranded

A property management firm has been accused of duping several tenants and homeowners of lakhs of rupees, including ₹21 lakh from a 35-year-old resident, by allegedly collecting lease deposits, defaulting on rent payments to property owners, and failing to refund the money.

Based on multiple complaints, the Indiranagar police have registered a cheating case against a realtor and his firm, Jones Asset, for allegedly operating a large-scale lease-rental fraud racket estimated to involve over ₹200 crore.

Police suspect that more than 300 people were allegedly cheated after being lured with promises of assured rental income and hassle-free property management services.

According to the complaint filed by Clifford Royan D and several others, the victim came into contact with Jones Property Management in June 2025 while searching for a house on rent.

The company's employee, Abdul, and manager, Savita, allegedly assured him that a house would be provided on a lease basis and explained the company's terms and conditions. Trusting their assurances, the victim reportedly paid ₹21 lakh in multiple instalments.

Police said the firm collected ₹10 lakh to ₹75 lakh from victims by promising attractive returns and initially paid rents regularly before allegedly defaulting. Victims alleged the owner fled with crores. **BMB**

Dark streets leave Richards Town residents feeling unsafe

Streetlight audit by residents found more than 30 fused bulbs, exposing prolonged civic negligence and growing frustration over repeated unanswered complaints

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Residents of Richards Town and surrounding areas have been facing problems due to poor illumination of roads in the locality. Residents have been running from pillar to post seeking replacement of fused bulbs, as it has become difficult to walk on footpaths after sunset.

Residents say darkness has made evening movement unsafe, leaving pedestrians anxious and forcing many to avoid routine walks, especially along poorly lit stretches where visibility dims.

Fed up with the negligence of the streetlight division of Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), members of Richards Town Residents Association conducted an audit of streetlights on May 9 and found more than 30 defunct streetlights.

"Mobility of pedestrians requires well-maintained pavements and proper lighting at night. Unlike vehicles, pedestrians have no headlights to see the path ahead. Uneven and broken pavements force people to walk on roads and may contribute to pedestrian fatalities. The streetlight audit carried out between 9 pm and 10.30 pm has been shared with the new contractor and officials concerned," said Zaffar Sait, a long-time resident.

Expressing a similar opinion, KK Uppal, former president of Richards Town Residents Association, said he was fed up with the negligence and apathy of the BNCC streetlight department. "I am a senior citizen. It is difficult to walk on footpaths or even to cross the road due to lack of illumination. I have complained about replacing fused bulbs, but in vain," he said.

Tree branches need to be trimmed near Holy Ghost Church Main Gate and one of the street light that turned yellow

> **"I am a senior citizen. I find it difficult to walk on footpaths or even to cross the road due to lack of illumination**
>
> –KK Uppal, former president, Richards Town Residents Association

Anna Alex Jacob, Vice-President of Richards Town Residents Association, said Richards Town has a high population of senior citizens and raised concerns over their security. "On Pottery Road, several poles were brought down for railway line extension. This work has been painfully slow and poles have not been reinstalled. Pottery Road, Hennur Road and Pottery intersection remain in darkness. There has been apathy in completion of railway work and lack of coordination in debris removal and pole reinstallation," she said.

She added that several roads inside Richards Town have dark spots, leading to an increase in crimes. "Letters have been submitted, but every week brings a new excuse. Accountability starts from the top and we hope officials work brighter," she said.

Meanwhile, the BNCC Assistant Engineer said he was aware of the defunct streetlights. "I participated in the audit and instructed electricians and the contractor to replace fused bulbs without delay. The problem must be fixed in a few days and will monitor progress," he said.

Homelessness, broken promises fuel Kogilu protest

Scheduled Castes, minorities and backward class families in Kogilu remain homeless after demolition, as rehabilitation delays push displaced residents toward indefinite protest

Kogilu Layout Slum Residents' Struggle Committee has called for an indefinite protest, alleging prolonged delay in rehabilitation after demolition of more than 200 houses in Yelahanka, Bengaluru North Taluk.

Residents said demolition was carried out on December 20, 2025, by the Greater Bengaluru Authority in early morning hours, leaving hundreds of poor families homeless. Those affected include Scheduled Castes, minorities, backward classes, unorganised workers and domestic workers.

"The Constitution of India guarantees every citizen fundamental rights to equality, life and dignity. However, more than two hundred houses belonging to poor families in Kogilu Layout were brutally demolished, rendering us homeless in a single day," said a resident.

The committee alleged that despite repeated assurances from the government, including public promises by ministers, MLAs and Chief Minister, rehabilitation has not been provided even after 148 days of displacement.

According to residents, Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation conducted a survey soon after demolition, and multiple rounds of document verification were completed. However, families continue to live on streets under harsh weather conditions.

"We had hoped the Congress government, which claims to stand with poor, would help rebuild our lives. But even after surveys and verification, we are still without homes," committee said.

Residents further highlighted that rehabilitation has stalled due to stringent documentation requirements.

Kogilu slum residents seek dignity, shelter and justice by protesting at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday

Government has reportedly mandated six documents for housing eligibility: caste and income certificate, residence certificate, ration card, voter ID, Aadhaar card and bank passbook.

However, they said most residents are unable to meet these conditions. "Most of us only possess Aadhaar, voter ID, PAN cards and bank accounts. Less than ten percent have caste and income certificates. For many, obtaining these certificates requires a Transfer Certificate, which they do not have as first-generation learners. Similarly, most residents lack residence certificates due to lack of awareness," said a resident. Residents added that only about 36 percent currently hold ration cards, while many others have been unable to apply due to technical barriers and restrictions since 2017.

A member of Kogilu Layout Slum Residents' Struggle Committee said, "If government fails to resolve documentation barriers, it is effectively pushing us into permanent homelessness. We are not asking for charity, but for the constitutional right to shelter and dignity."

The committee has placed three demands before the government: immediate rehabilitation for affected families, special camps to help residents obtain documents without hurdles, and permanent housing with land rights and basic civic amenities for all. **–BMB**

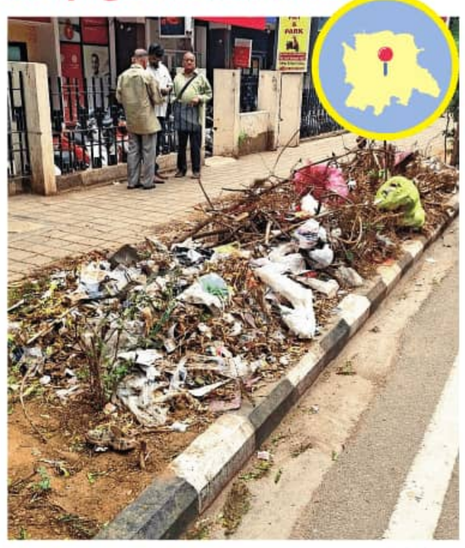
whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Waterlogging woes
Bilekahalli

Once the monsoon sets in, an apartment Road in Bilekahalli, near a hospital off Bannerghatta Main Road, is likely to face severe waterlogging.

Garbage zone
Kempegowda Main Road



Garbage piling up on footpaths along Kempegowda Main Road near Majestic, due to poor waste clearance, poses serious health and civic hazards on one of the city's busiest stretches.

Blocked access
Cooke Town

Though drain cleaning was completed 10 days ago, uncleared debris and road damage caused by pipe-laying work by an unidentified contractor have blocked parking and made 5th Cross C Street unmotorable.

KSRTC enforces no work, no pay rule

Ahead of the indefinite strike called by transport employees from May 20 over pending wage revision and other demands, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation Managing Director Akram Pasha on Monday warned staff against participating, stating that strict "no work, no pay" rules and disciplinary action would be enforced against absentees.

In a circular issued to senior officials, the corporation said employees of state-run transport undertakings are barred from striking under the Karnataka Essential Services Maintenance Act (KESMA), 2013, as these corporations are classified as essential public utility services.

The circular also noted that the strike-related dispute is currently under conciliation before the State Labour Commissioner, making any strike action impermissible under provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Employees were directed to report for duty "under any circumstances," while officials were instructed to ensure normal bus operations during the proposed strike period.

The corporation further ordered that no leave be granted from May 20 except in unavoidable situations and directed authorities to maintain records of absent staff for salary deductions and disciplinary proceedings, citing a 2004 High Court ruling empowering action against unauthorised absenteeism. —BMB

Tourist death prompts stricter rules

Starting May 19, tourists visiting elephant camps across Karnataka will only be allowed to view elephants from a distance of at least 100 feet.

They will not be permitted to touch elephants, take selfies with them, or feed them food items such as bananas, jaggery, or sugarcane by hand.

The Karnataka Forest Department issued these instructions following the death of a 33-year-old tourist, Tulasi, at Dubare Elephant Camp in Kodagu on Monday. She was trampled during a clash between two elephants at the camp.

Tulasi's husband and child narrowly escaped unhurt in the incident.

The mishap occurred while elephants were being bathed. Although mahouts tried to control them, one elephant charged at another, causing one to fall and trample Tulasi.

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has also directed the department to formulate a standard operating procedure for all elephant camps to ensure tourist safety.

He issued these instructions to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, stressing the need to prioritise visitor safety after the woman's death during the elephant clash at Muthalik elephant camp.

An investigation will be conducted to ensure such incidents do not recur in future. —BMB

NGT seeks full audit of KSPCB funds

Where did pollution compensation funds really go?

NGT has directed pollution control boards to disclose three years of environmental compensation spending, raising fresh questions over transparency and fund utilisation

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In a recent order, the principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, along with other state pollution control boards across India, to disclose details of expenditure from environmental compensation funds received during the last three years.

KSPCB had submitted a report to the NGT last week stating that the funds were being utilised as per norms, but it did not disclose details of their utilisation. "The Tribunal in this original application is considering utilisation of environmental damage compensation funds by pollution control boards. Some boards have stated that funds are being utilised as per norms, but details have not been disclosed. Hence, PCBs and PCCs are required to disclose full details of utilisation of environmental damage compensation funds for at least three years," the NGT noted in its order passed on May 14.

The Tribunal also directed state pollution control boards, including KSPCB, to disclose the audit status of environmental compensation funds.

The Board has been instructed to furnish complete information by filing a further affidavit within eight weeks from the date of the order.

KSPCB recovered Rs 2.13 crore as environmental compensation during 2025–26

KSPCB had submitted an affidavit to the green court on May 13, stating that it received a little over Rs 13.6 crore as environmental compensation during the last five years.

Of this, KSPCB recovered Rs 2.13 crore in 2025-26. Before that, Rs 3.94 crore was recovered in 2024-25, Rs 6.16 crore in 2023-24, Rs 85.5 lakh in 2022-23, and Rs 50 lakh in 2021-22.

Guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board state that assessment and utilisation of environmental compensation funds must follow methodology and norms prescribed by the CPCB. A separate account for these funds is maintained by pollution control boards.

Crores collected, but where's environmental restoration?

Over the last five years, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has received a little over Rs 13.6 crore as Environmental Compensation (EC).

The Board recovered Rs 2.13 crore as EC in 2025-26. Before that, Rs 3.94 crore was recovered in 2024-25, Rs 6.16 crore in 2023-24, Rs 85.5 lakh in 2022-23, and Rs 50 lakh in 2021-22.

Guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board state that assessment and utilisation of Environmental Compensation funds must follow CPCB methodology, with separate accounts maintained by state pollution control boards.

According to CPCB guidelines, the amount recovered should be used for restoration of environmental damage caused in areas where violations have occurred.

Activities that can be funded include industrial inspections for compliance verification, installation of continuous water and ambient air quality monitoring stations, strengthening monitoring networks, preparation of industry documents and clean technology studies, investigation of environmental damage, preparation of DPRs, remediation of contaminated sites, and infrastructure augmentation of Urban Local Bodies along with capacity building of pollution control boards.

However, city-based environmentalists say the fund is being underutilised.

"Given the status of air and water pollution in the city, it is evident that KSPCB is not carrying out restoration activities. Measuring pollution levels and fining industries do not constitute restoration. For long, experts have raised concerns over sparse continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations. KSPCB could have utilised this fund to address that issue," said an environmentalist.

However, a senior KSPCB official said several activities are already funded under different heads and using Environmental Compensation for them may not be wise.

"For instance, installation of continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations is funded by the central government under the National Clean Air Plan. Similarly, some other activities for restoration of the environment have separate funding sources," said the official. —Garima Prasher

IN BRIEF

Lifesaving care without costly hospital bills

In an act of compassion, Bengaluru-based Shabbir Ahmed and Sabeel Nazir have come forward to support poor kidney patients by setting up a dialysis centre offering free and highly subsidised treatment for those unable to afford costly medical care.

Through Naasih Nephro Center in Richards Town, the duo has helped hundreds of economically vulnerable patients survive lifelong dialysis treatment with dignity and care.

Since starting in September 2021, the centre has completed over 50,000 free and subsidised dialysis sessions and now facilitates nearly 1,600 sessions every month using 21 dialysis machines.

Families were selling jewellery, taking loans, discontinuing children's education, and even stopping treatment midway because they could not afford repeated sessions."

He added, "The intention behind the center was to ensure that no patient loses life because of financial inability. Our aim is to provide dignified, affordable, and compassionate dialysis care."

One of the centre's unique features is its no-billing-counter model. "patients can pay whatever they can afford or simply walk in even if they have no money," Sabeel said.

The centre currently supports around 140 patients, including 90 men and 50 women. Around 20% of sessions are completely free, while nearly 70% are heavily subsidised, with patients paying ₹100 to ₹400. Financially stable patients contribute ₹500 to ₹980.

Naasih Nephro Center also has a 10-bedded women's dialysis unit staffed entirely by female technicians for comfort and privacy.

"Most chronic kidney disease patients require dialysis two to three times every week, continuously lifelong, unless they undergo transplant. Missing even a few sessions can seriously endanger life," Sabeel said. The team also coordinates with nephrologists, technicians, healthcare professionals, and hospitals whenever advanced intervention or emergency care is needed. —Iffath Fathima

K'taka struggles to kick tobacco habit: 1 in 4 adults in its grip

Urban centres record higher tobacco use among males, while rural districts report greater consumption of chewing tobacco

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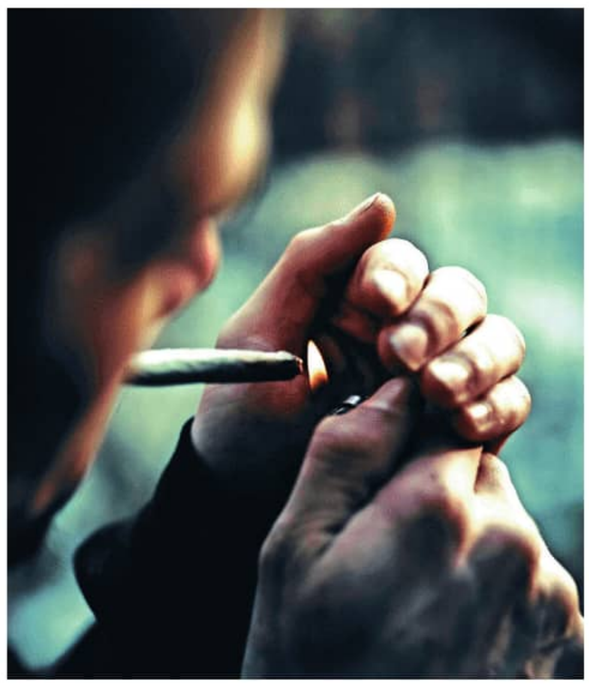
PICS FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



A startling 22.8 percent of adults in Karnataka, or nearly one in four people aged 15 and above, use tobacco in some form, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2, 2016-17). This is far higher than neighbouring Kerala (12.7%) and Tamil Nadu (20%), though slightly lower than Telangana (17.8%) and Andhra Pradesh (20%), revealing that tobacco use remains a hidden but serious public health challenge in the state.

Across India, tobacco use varies widely, with northeastern states reporting the highest prevalence. Tripura leads at 64.5 percent, followed by Mizoram (58.7%), Manipur (55.1%), Assam (48.2%), and Meghalaya (47%). Odisha (45.6%) and Nagaland (43.3%) also record high usage. Central and northern states such as Chhattisgarh (39.1%), Jharkhand (38.9%), Madhya Pradesh (34.2%), and Uttar Pradesh (35.5%) report significantly higher tobacco consumption than Karnataka.

Health experts say tobacco use in India reflects deep-rooted cultural and socio-economic factors, with rural and tribal regions often recording the highest rates. States such as Goa (9.7%), Puducherry (11.2%), Kerala (12.7%), and Punjab (13.4%) report comparatively low prevalence, indicating the impact of sustained public health campaigns and higher literacy levels. Karnataka's 22.8 percent places it below the national hotspots, but the figures continue to raise concerns among health authorities.

Experts emphasise that consistent anti-tobacco campaigns, strict enforcement of public smoking bans, and awareness programmes remain crucial to reducing tobacco-related health risks. In Karnataka, urban centres such as Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru record higher tobacco use among adult males, while rural districts report greater consumption of chewing tobacco, reflecting varied consumption patterns across the state.

From bidis and cigarettes to khaini and gutkha, tobacco remains deeply rooted across India, with experts warning stronger interventions are urgently needed to curb rising cancer and respiratory illnesses

K Krishna Murthy, a health expert, said, "Karnataka's moderate tobacco prevalence suggests the state is neither among the worst-affected nor the lowest-consuming regions, but the numbers indicate that nearly one in four adults still uses tobacco. Public health authorities stress that reducing this rate is critical to tackling tobacco-related illnesses, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory conditions."

The GATS 2 survey also highlights the varied pattern of tobacco consumption across India. Among adults, 4 percent smoke cigarettes, while 7.7 percent use bidis. Around 0.3 percent smoke cigars, cheroots, or cigarillos, and 0.7 percent use hookah. Other smoking products account for 0.1 percent. Smokeless tobacco remains more prevalent, with khaini or tobacco-lime mixture leading at 11.2 percent, followed by gutkha at 6.8 percent, betel quid with tobacco at 5.8 percent, oral products such as mishri, gul, or gudakhu at 3.8 percent, and paan masala with tobacco at 2.8 percent. Snuff and other smokeless products remain less common at 0.6 percent and 0.3 percent respectively, underscoring the dominance of traditional smokeless tobacco products in the country.

Retired KSP official faces forgery charges

Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) has once again hit the headlines for the wrong reasons. The KSP was in the news last July when the state government ordered an inquiry into alleged financial irregularities. Now, the KSP is again in the spotlight for alleged criminal conspiracy, forgery, fabrication of official records, criminal trespass, and abuse of official position.

The latest controversy stems from a complaint lodged by Nadoja Dr Mahesh Joshi, the elected president of the KSP, with VV Puram Police. According to the complaint, Parshwanath, a retired in-charge manager of the KSP who retired on January 31, 2026, entered the KSP office in February to prepare a note against him.

"I availed data under the RTI Act. As per the data provided by the KSP, Parshwanath retired on January 31 and was not given an extension by the KSP. A note prepared and signed by Parshwanath stated that a caveat was filed in the High Court on February 18. If the report was prepared by Parshwanath before his retirement, how did he come to know about filing the caveat in the High Court on February 18?" asked Mahesh Joshi.

Documents obtained under the RTI Act show that an advocate sent a letter to the administrator of the KSP claiming 10,000 as professional fees for filing the caveat in the High Court on February 18. A copy of the caveat petition also mentions the date of submission as February 18, 2026.

The complaint was lodged against Parshwanath, retired in-charge manager, B Ravikumar, FDC, and K M Gayathri, former administrator of the KSP, for offences related to criminal conspiracy, forgery, and fabrication of official records.

"The contents of the fabricated note specially refer to the caveat proceedings initiated on February 18, 2026, thereby clearly establishing that accused no. 1 (Parshwanath), who had already retired, could not have independently accessed such confidential and contemporaneous legal information unless the same had been deliberately shared with him," the complaint stated.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Lakkundi heritage revival unearths temples, wells and artefacts

Community-driven campaign recovers 2,500 relics, stepwells and temples, with plans for museum and large-scale restoration projects

Sridhar.Vivan
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The Karnataka government is planning a major heritage revival project for the historic town of Lakkundi in Gadag district, with a dedicated museum and artefact display centre proposed on a three-acre site. The initiative comes amid an intensified archaeological and cultural restoration effort aimed at repositioning the centuries-old settlement as a major heritage tourism destination. The state is also attempting to retrieve several ancient artefacts believed to have been shifted from Lakkundi to the National Museum in New Delhi nearly five decades ago.

Tourism Minister HK Patil said the restoration initiative has now evolved into a people-led movement. In November 2024, the government organised a "Pallakki Utsav", during which residents voluntarily handed over ancient artefacts preserved in their homes. Over the past year, nearly 1,000 artefacts have reportedly been collected from the region through such efforts.

The momentum increased further during a week-long "Artefact Exploration Campaign" held in the first week of May 2026, when officials and experts unearthed more than 1,500 additional artefacts within just seven days. The campaign also led to the discovery of five ancient stepwells and five historic temples that had remained buried over time. Calling it one of the largest heritage recovery exercises in Karnataka's recent history, Patil said the government now plans to identify and restore 100 ancient wells and 100 temples in the coming years.

Artefacts collected through public participation and archaeological campaigns are strengthening efforts to transform Lakkundi into a heritage tourism hub

Sixteen temples in Lakkundi have already been declared protected monuments. Officials believe the scale of discoveries underlines the archaeological importance of the region, which was once a flourishing urban centre more than 1,000 years ago.

Residents and experts join hands to rediscover Lakkundi's buried treasures, as Karnataka pushes a heritage revival that promises tourism growth, cultural pride, and preservation of centuries-old architecture

Historically known as "Lokkigundi", Lakkundi is renowned for its Chalukyan-era architecture, intricate stepwells, temple complexes and stone inscriptions. The town also carries traces of Hoysala and Vijayanagara artistic influence and was once an important Jain centre. More than 50 ancient temples and wells are spread across the settlement, with the Kashi Vishwanath Temple standing out for its elaborate sculptural detailing and architectural craftsmanship.

Patil said the proposed museum and display centre would help preserve and showcase the growing collection of recovered artefacts locally instead of moving them outside the state. He added that the government is initiating measures to reclaim historically significant relics removed decades ago.

Officials said the project could transform Lakkundi into a major heritage tourism hub while boosting conservation awareness, as the government initiates steps to reclaim historically significant relics shifted decades ago.

Karnataka set to control 55% of India's oil reserves

Karnataka emerges as India's strategic oil powerhouse, massive underground reserves strengthen emergency preparedness amid volatile global energy markets

INFOCUS
ENERGY SECURITY

Karnataka is quietly becoming one of the most critical states on India's energy security map, with underground crude oil facilities at Mangaluru and Padur emerging as key pillars of the country's emergency fuel strategy.

The renewed spotlight on India's strategic petroleum reserves comes even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the United Arab Emirates once again highlighted India's growing energy partnerships with Gulf nations, particularly Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, which has already played a major role in India's crude storage programme at Mangaluru.

With the Centre pushing ahead with the second phase of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) programme, Karnataka is expected to account for nearly 55% of India's total planned strategic crude oil storage capacity once the ongoing expansion works are completed.

The figures underline the scale of the shift. India currently operates 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT) of underground crude oil reserves under Phase I of the SPR programme at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur. Karnataka alone accounts for 4 MMT through the Mangaluru and Padur facilities, translating to nearly 75% of the country's present strategic crude storage infrastructure.

The Mangaluru cavern, with a capacity of 1.5 MMT, had earlier attracted global attention after Abu Dhabi National Oil Company entered into an agreement with India to store crude oil there. The arrangement allowed ADNOC commercial use of the facility while giving India priority access to the reserves during emergencies, strengthening both energy security and diplomatic ties with the UAE. Now, the Centre has cleared Phase II expansion plans that will further cement Karnataka's position as India's biggest strategic oil reserve hub. The Union Government approved two new commercial-cum-strategic storage facilities with a combined capacity of 6.5 MMT at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka. Of this, Padur alone will receive an additional 2.5 MMT underground storage facility.

Once completed, Karnataka's crude storage capacity will rise from 4 MMT to 6.5 MMT, forming nearly 55% of India's planned strategic reserves. Officials said the expansion will increase emergency oil cover from 9.5 days to nearly 21 days amid global fuel uncertainties.

Unlike Phase I, the expansion is being developed under a PPP model to attract private investment and reduce government spending. Experts said the Padur and Mangaluru caverns are crucial for India's fuel security and strengthen Karnataka's role in the country's energy strategy. —**Sridhar Vivan**

Why Mangaluru and Padur were chosen for India's oil reserves

Mangaluru and Padur were selected by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) for underground crude oil storage because of a combination of geological, logistical and strategic advantages. Both locations have strong crystalline hard rock formations, which are ideal for constructing underground caverns.

These naturally stable rock structures help safely contain hydrocarbons without the need for lined storage tanks. The regions also support the "water curtain" system, in which groundwater pressure surrounding the caverns is maintained at a higher level than the pressure of the stored crude oil, preventing leakage and ensuring safe long-term storage.

According to ISPRL, "The location along India's western coastline was another major factor.

Proximity to the Arabian Sea allows easy access for Very Large Crude Carriers arriving from the Middle East, reducing transportation time and costs. Mangaluru benefits from its proximity to the New Mangalore Port, while Padur is connected to offshore import facilities through pipelines.

The sites offer direct connectivity to major refineries, enabling quick emergency supply, while underground storage enhances security and reduces environmental impact.

INBRIEF

New rules for custodial violence

The Karnataka Police has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure transparency and accountability in custodial violence and death investigations across the state. Issued by DGP and IGP Dr MA Saleem, the directive follows concerns over delayed FIRs, improper mahazars, and failure to preserve key evidence in several cases. The SOP mandates immediate registration of FIRs based on complaints or suo motu action by police. Officers must promptly inform senior officials and the Chief Office. To ensure impartiality, investigations will initially be handled by DySP-rank officers until the CID takes over. The guidelines require immediate spot mahazars, seizure of CCTV footage, audio and video recording of statements, collection of medical reports, and preservation of forensic evidence. In custodial death cases, magistrate-led inquests and videographed autopsies are mandatory under BNSS, 2023. CID officers must independently verify evidence before filing charge sheets. **BMB**

No fuel shortage, say OMCs

Public sector oil marketing companies on Monday assured the public that adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available across all their retail outlets in Karnataka. Siddharth Agarwal, State-Level Coordinator for the oil industry in Karnataka (IOCL, BPCL and HPCL), issued a statement requesting the public not to indulge in panic buying or overstocking of fuel. "I would like to assure the public that adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available across all retail outlets of public sector oil marketing companies (IOCL, BPCL and HPCL) in Karnataka," he said in the statement. He further said the entire fuel supply chain, from terminals and depots to retail outlets, is functioning normally, efficiently and without disruption. "Fuel supplies are being continuously monitored, and replenishment operations are progressing smoothly across the state," he added.All fuel outlets are operating normally with adequate stocks, Agarwal said, urging the public not to panic buy or overstock fuel. **PTI**

Cummins, Hussain shine as SRH manage to restrict Chennai

IPL 2026

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Pat Cummins displayed his absolute control over pace and length with a three-wicket burst, but a collective batting effort helped Chennai Super Kings reach a competitive 180 for seven against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their IPL match here on Monday.

The Hyderabad skipper (3/28) struck at crucial junctures of the match to ensure that CSK would not embark on a lopsided run after the home side elected to bat.

Sanju Samson gave a thunderous start to the Super Kings, smashing Nitish Kumar Reddy for 6, 4, 4, to eke out 17 runs in the first over.

Samson handed an equally harsh treatment to Praful Hinge in the next over, biffing him for a hat-trick of fours. But Cummins introduced himself in the third over, and pitched one up at good pace, and Samson's booming drive ended in the safe mitts of stumper Ishan Kishan.

Urvil Patel gave an early warning of hitting abilities with two successive sixes off Cummins, but Sakib Hussain's slow ball beat his horizontal bat to rattle the stumps.

Chennai captain Ruturaj Gaikwad and the impressive Kartik Sharma (32, 19 balls) constructed a 42-run stand for the third wicket to keep their side on the track.

Kartik underlined his fast-growing maturity with some stunning shots like an inside out four off Hinge and a pulled six of left-arm wrist spinner Shivang Kumar.

But Cummins returned to account for the young right-hander as a pace off delivery outside off-stump robbed momentum from his upper cut, which ended with Nitish at deep.

— ANI

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Eshan Malinga celebrates with a teammate after dismissing Chennai Super Kings' Dewald Brevis during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 T20 cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad, in Chennai

Chennai Super Kings' Noor Ahmad bowls a delivery

Motor Vehicles Act prohibits altering vehicles from original specifications

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

area was much higher across all three months this year – January, February, and March - than permissible limits, both during the day and night.

Near the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (NIMHANS), another silent zone in the city, followed a similar pattern.

While some residential areas fared better than silent zones, in SG Halli, noise pollution crossed the 100 dB mark in all three months.

City-based anti-noise pollution crusaders say the primary reason behind high noise pollution in the city is vehicular noise, mostly from shrill horns and defective silencers.

Tipper trucks, mini trucks, private buses, water tankers, logistics trucks, and school buses are mostly the vehicles that illegally install shrill horns but are rarely penalised. According to Raja Kannan, an anti-noise pollution activist and resident of Bannerghatta Road, vehicles driving with shrill horns are common in the area.

"A lot of construction activities are happening around our apartment complex. Every time heavy vehicles carrying construction material pass our building, the noise becomes unbearable. This continues during night hours as well. These vehicles use high-decibel illegal pressure horns or shrill and multitonal horns. Many senior citizens, those with health-related issues, and children are suffering from this rampant noise pollution," said Kannan.

He further added that while traffic police used to conduct special operations to catch vehicles with illegal horns, these operations have stopped after the pandemic.

"When we enquired the reason behind this, the traffic police in the area informed us that there are not enough personnel to handle these cases. The issue of a large number of vehicles using shrill and multi toned horns can be controlled if the penalty imposed for such an offence is increased. Registration license of repeat offenders should be cancelled," added Kannan.

The Indian Motor Vehicles Act of 1988 prohibits altering motor vehicles from their originally specified specifications and prescribes punishment for violators. Under the Act, a Rs 1,000 fine should be imposed for the first offence, followed by a Rs 2,000 fine for subsequent offences.

Citizens and activists say the lack of enforcement of rules is the reason for the increasing noise pollution in the city.

"Post-manufacture installation of shrill horns is forbidden under the Motor Vehicle Act. Unfortunately, inadequate enforcement of these rules has allowed for and encouraged cheap thrills at the cost of severe livability degradation in cities. We urge authorities to take strict measures and impose fines, as is long due," said Prajna Dutt, founder of Noisewatchers, a collective of citizens and a resident of JP Nagar.

Majority of retail pharmacy bodies opt out of strike call as CDSCO reviews concerns

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is reviewing concerns raised by retail chemists over the operation of e-pharmacies, even as several state-level pharmacy associations have distanced themselves from the proposed nationwide strike called by the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) on May 20, official sources said on Monday.

Representatives of the AIOCD recently met the national drug regulator and expressed concerns over the functioning and regulation of e-pharmacies.

The regulator assured them that their issues are under active review and that the regulatory framework governing the sector is being examined to address legitimate concerns of retail pharmacy stakeholders, sources said.

They further said several retail pharmacy associations across the country have decided not to participate in the proposed one-day strike, citing public interest and the need to ensure uninterrupted availability of medicines.

The strike call was given by the AIOCD over concerns about the growing business of e-pharmacies.

"Any disruption in the functioning of chemist shops has the potential to cause serious inconvenience to patients, particularly vulnerable groups dependent on regular access to life-saving and essential medicines, besides impacting critical medical supply chains," a source said. Recognising this, several retail pharmacy associations reviewed the situation and expressed satisfaction over the regulator's constructive response, the sources said. In view of the ongoing review process and the need to safeguard patient welfare, these associations have categorically declined to support the proposed strike, they added.

Retail Pharmacy Associations from West Bengal, Kerala, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Ladakh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand have voluntarily submitted written assurances that they will not participate in the strike and have committed to ensuring there will be no disruption in the availability of medicines to the public on the proposed day of protest.

A CDSCO official reiterated that public health and patient access to medicines remain paramount and that constructive dialogue remains the preferred mechanism for addressing sectoral concerns while ensuring uninterrupted healthcare services across the country. **PTI**

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Change of Name

I, Manohara Babu, residing at No.29, Kalavruksha Nilaya, Nagarahole Nagar, Vishwaneedam Post Office, Bangalore North Taluk. Stating that, my name is Manohara Babu .G in SSLC and Degree Markscard and My name is Manohar Babu in Aadhar Card and Election Identity Card. But hereby request all the concerned authorities to consider my name as Manohar Babu only. Therefore, i have filed an affidavit before Notary and Lawyer T.V. Bhadravijaya on 16.05.2026.

I Gurumurthy Narayan Vaidya S/o, Narayan Vaidya., Residing at No 31/12, 3rd Floor, Hora Residency, 1st Main, 6th Cross, Poorna Prajna Nagar Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name to, Gurumurthy Vaidya for all purposes.

I Vinaya Kumble Nayak W/O,Rajarama Pai Ammembal R/o 87/2, A604, Suraj Ganga Socrates, Kanakapura Road,Vajarahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka,560062 have changed my name to Vinaya Nayak for all purposes.

I, (Old Name) Shantavva, Mother of No. 16123426L Hav. Niranjan S Jalihal, residing at Amaragol (Vill), Ron (Tq), Gadag (Dist), Hole Hadagali (Post), Karnataka (State), PIN - 582203, have changed my name to (New Name) Shantavva Shankrappa Jalihal vide affidavit dated 07/05/2026 sworn before Notary G. M. Vastrad, Hunagund.

I, SURYANARAYANAN SUBRAMANIAN, S/o SUBRAMANIAN IYER, R/o No. 5, Soorya SI Krupa Mansion Srivinas Nagar, Kithiganur Krishnarajpuram, Bengaluru-560036. I have changed my name to SOORYA NARAYANAN vide affidavit dated: 11/05/2025 Before Notary PRAKASHA.C Bengaluru.

I, PARVATHI MALATESH HANAMANAHALLI, W/o MALATHESH, R/o No. 167A/124 Sri Laxmi, 2nd Cross Tulasi Icon Haveri Karnataka-581110. I have changed my name to PARWATHI HANUMANAHALLI vide affidavit dated: 11/05/2025 Before Notary PRAKASHA.C Bengaluru.

I, HORO LALIT HARSHIT KUMAR, S/o Harshit Horo, resident of No.11/8, GF 005, North Winds 2, Nehru Nagar, Jakkur Main Road, Yelahanka, B'lore - 64, I do hereby declare that I have changed my name from HORO LALIT HARSHIT KUMAR to LALIT HORO vide Affidavit dated 10.03.2026, sworn before Notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, Mohammed walied Nabeel Abdul gani R/o No 20 umar Farooq masjid neelasandra Bangalore 560047 Have changed my name to Mohammed walied for all Purposes.

I, Ankush Ashokrao Rane R/o Flat No.301-B, SLV Icon, Down Bazar Road, Yelahanka Blr-560064. Changed my name from Ankush Rane to Ankush Ashokrao Rane To All Further Purposes.

I, (Old Name) Shankrappa, Father of No. 16123426L Hav Niranjan S Jalihal, residing at Amaragol (Vill), Ron (Tq), Gadag (Dist), Hole Hadagali (Post), Karnataka (State), PIN 582203, have changed my name to (New Name) Shankrappa Jalihal vide affidavit dated 07/05/2026 sworn before Notary G. M. Vastrad, Hunagund.

I, AVINASH R, S/o ASHOK KUMAR R, R/o B907, Wing-1, Gopalan Aqua AK Gopalan Colony Main Road Channasandra Main Road Whitefield Bangalore-560066. I have changed my name to AVINASH RANGAPURE vide affidavit dated: 11/05/2025 Before Notary PRAKASHA.C Bengaluru.

WE, MURALI CHENNAVEERAPPA & KAVITHA MURALI R/o No 100, 9th cross 20th Main BTM 1st Stage Madivala, Bommanahalli, Anekal, Bengaluru-560068. Do Hereby Declare that we have changed my minor Daughter's name From DRUTHI MURALI to KUSHI MURALI vide affidavit dated: 14/05/2025 Before Notary RAMACHANDRAPPA.C Bengaluru.

I, Swetha Chandramouliswaran Iyer, W/o K Rakesh Ram, residing in Bengaluru, hereby declare that the names Swetha Iyer, Swetha Chandramouliswaran, Swetha C, and Swetha Chandramoul Iswaran Iyer K Rakesh appearing in various documents refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as Swetha Chandramouliswaran Iyer for all purposes.

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63 accident cases reported till May 14 at NH-44 stretch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Officials warned that the number of serious injuries is likely to rise further in 2026 if urgent road safety measures are not implemented.

Further, police officials highlighted that near Chikkasane Gate, two fatal accidents claiming three lives and four non-fatal accidents in which seven people sustained grievous injuries have already been reported in the initial months of the year.

Police officials pointed out that the Chikkasane Gate junction has emerged as a major black spot due to several infrastructure shortcomings, including unscientific U-turns, open dividers, lack of service roads, poor lighting, inadequate signage and absence of proper road markings. The police official said, "The situation has worsened after recent asphalting work on the highway, during which old white road markings on humps were removed. Drivers travelling at night are reportedly unable to notice the humps or junctions in time, increasing the risk of accidents."

A 28-year-old man was killed in a road accident near Kote Cross on NH-44 on the night of May 12. The deceased has been identified as Shekhar Mahadevappa, a resident of Nileri village in Devanahalli taluk.

According to police, Shekhar was riding from Devanahalli towards Hakepet Junction around 10.30 pm when a speeding car, allegedly driven recklessly from the Chikkaballapur side towards Bengaluru, rammed into his two-wheeler near Kote Cross. The impact threw Shekhar onto the road, causing severe injuries.

The police also noted that speeding by tourists travelling towards popular destinations such as Nandi Hills and the Isha Foundation has become a major concern on the stretch. Rash and high-speed driving, especially during weekends and late-night hours, has reportedly contributed to several serious crashes.

To address the issue, the police have recommended a series of urgent temporary and permanent corrective measures. These include installation of solar blinkers, cat eyes, rumble strips, barricades, high mast lights, CCTV and ANPR systems, installing a large accident zone-reduce speed board, reflective sign boards and white tapping on humps. Police officials have also proposed the closure of unscientific divider openings and U-turns, construction of service roads and shoulders, and installation of skywalks for pedestrian safety.

Officials stressed that 'Accident Zone- Reduce Speed' sign boards should be placed at least 500 metres ahead of the junction on both sides to alert motorists in advance. Additional humps and zigzag barricades have also been recommended near Chikkasane Gate to control vehicle speed.

Police officials also stated that two earlier requests seeking urgent intervention were submitted to the authorities on January 16 and January 30 this year, but all the precautionary measures are yet to be implemented. Police officials said after the third letter, retro-reflective glass beds have been embedded near TPM markings for night time visibility, and a road safety delineator reflector has been fixed on the central median. "A few more works like flat humps and other issues are pending. We will have a meeting with the NHAI department where concerns will be discussed," a police source added.

HEALTH TIP: Olive oil nourishes dry, dull hair, leaving tresses smooth, shiny and frizz-free with regular use

Raw honey and turmeric help heal mouth ulcers by moisturising sores and preventing bacterial infection

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HOW BABIES REALLY LEARN LANGUAGE

Experts say parentese strengthens babies' speech, bonding and language development

Many parents have heard the warning: do not use baby talk with babies and toddlers. Caregivers are often encouraged to speak properly and use adult-like language, out of concern that simplified speech could confuse children or delay language development.

But research highlighted in my new book, "Beyond Words", suggests the opposite is true. The sing-song voice many adults instinctively use with infants, often called "baby talk" but more accurately known as "parentese" or infant-directed speech, actually helps children learn language.

Far from confusing babies, exaggerated phrases like "Loooook at the doggie!" capture their attention, help them detect patterns in speech and strengthen social bonding. The funny mistakes children make along the way, such as saying "goed" instead of "went" or "mouses" instead of "mice", are not signs that children are learning language incorrectly. They show that children are actively working out the rules of language for themselves.

What parentese really is

When many people think of baby talk, they imagine nonsense phrases like "goo goo ga ga" or made-up words like "num nums". But that is not what linguists and developmental psychologists mean by parentese.

Parentese uses real words and grammatically correct sentences, but with exaggerated intonation, a higher pitch, stretched-out vowels and a slower rhythm. Think of the way a caregiver might naturally say: "Hi, baaaaby! Are you huuungry?"

There is little evidence that occasional playful nonsense words harm children's language development. But studies suggest that parentese helps babies pay attention to speech, recognise patterns and engage socially.

Adults across cultures tend to speak this way to infants instinctively. Even people who insist they never use baby talk often slip into it around babies.

Researchers have found that infants actually prefer listening to parentese over regular adult speech. The exaggerated sounds and slower pacing make language easier to process. Babies are better able to pick out individual sounds, notice word boundaries and recognise patterns. Language learning also depends on emotional connection. Babies learn through warm, responsive interaction with caregivers during feeding, play, bath time and everyday routines.

Interestingly, humans are not the only ones who respond to this communication style. Studies have shown that cats react more positively when people use a baby-talk voice with them.

Babies are active learners

Children do not learn language simply by copying adults word for word. They actively test hypotheses about how language works, which is why toddlers make predictable and surprisingly logical mistakes. One common example is overgeneralisation. A child learns that many verbs form the past tense by adding "-ed", so they produce forms like "goed", "eated" or "comed".

These are not random errors. They show that the child has understood a grammatical rule and is trying to apply it consistently.

The problem is that English contains many irregular exceptions. The same thing happens with plurals. Children may say "foots" instead of "feet" or "mouses" instead of "mice". The logic behind these errors is perfectly sound.

Linguists sometimes describe children as little scientists, constantly testing patterns and revising their understanding as they receive more input from the world around them.

Why toddlers call everything a 'dog'

Young children often make predictable language mistakes. A toddler may call every four-legged animal a "dog", a mistake known as overextension. Others may use "dog" only for the family pet, called underextension. These errors show how children gradually learn to categorise the world around them.

Pronouns can also be confusing. Toddlers often mix up "me" and "you" because the words change depending on who is speaking. While these mistakes may sound cute, they reflect a complex learning process.

'Pasketti' and 'wabbit'

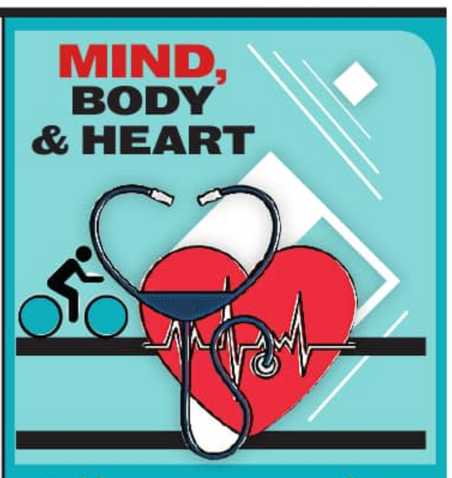
Pronunciation develops gradually too. Young children often simplify difficult sounds and groups of consonants.

"Spaghetti" becomes "pasketti", "rabbit" becomes "wabbit" and "yellow" may come out as "lellow". Speech and language specialists call these simplifications phonological processes. They are a normal part of development because some sounds are physically harder to produce than others.

Sounds such as r, th, sh and ch tend to develop later because they require more precise control of the tongue and mouth. Most children naturally outgrow these pronunciation patterns as their speech matures. However, persistent difficulties can sometimes signal a speech or language disorder requiring professional support. Parents are often under pressure to do everything right, including helping their children learn language. But children do not learn by avoiding mistakes. They learn through interaction, experimentation and repetition.

Parentese helps babies focus on speech and engage socially, while toddlers' funny language mistakes show they are actively learning how language works. Speaking in a sing-song voice to babies is nothing to feel embarrassed about — it may actually help build the foundation for language development.

(By Karen Stollznow, Griffith University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Fibre fix

As people become more health-conscious, many are looking for easy ways to boost nutrition. Fibre supports digestion and heart health, but processed foods often reduce intake. Here are nine simple ways to add more fibre to your diet naturally.

1. Fruits, fruits, and more fruits!
Seasonal and local fruits such as apples, pears, bananas and berries are rich in fibre and nutrients.

2. Eat wholegrain options for breakfast
Choose oats, chillas or wholewheat bread for breakfast. Wholegrains keep you fuller for longer and support digestion.

3. Make vegetables a part of every meal
Leafy greens, carrots, broccoli and beans are excellent fibre-rich choices. Add them to salads, soups or main dishes.

4. Replace processed snacks with nuts and seeds
Almonds, walnuts, sunflower seeds and pumpkin seeds provide fibre, protein and healthy fats. Eat them in moderation.

5. Swap white rice for brown rice
Brown rice contains more fibre because it retains the bran layer, helping you stay fuller for longer.

6. Ensure you consume legumes
Beans, dals and chanas are rich natural sources of fibre and plant-based protein.

7. Remember to hydrate
Water helps fibre work effectively in the body and supports healthy digestion.

8. Don't peel fruit and vegetables
The skin of many fruits and vegetables contains valuable fibre, so avoid peeling whenever possible.

9. Add fibre-rich
Add spinach, chia seeds, bananas or berries to smoothies for a quick fibre boost. —Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Watermelon may secretly be summer's ultimate heart-healthy superfruit, new studies reveal

Studies suggest watermelon may be far more than a refreshing summer fruit. Research published in the journal Nutrients found that people who regularly eat watermelon tend to have healthier overall diets, consuming more fibre, vitamins, antioxidants and beneficial nutrients while taking in less added sugar and saturated fat.

Researchers say watermelon contains important compounds linked to cardiovascular and metabolic health, including lycopene, L-citrulline and L-arginine. These compounds are involved in nitric oxide production, which helps blood vessels relax and supports healthy circulation.

One study analysing data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) found that both children and adults who consumed watermelon generally had higher-quality diets than non-consumers. Watermelon eaters consumed more magnesium, potassium, vitamin C and carotenoids.

A separate clinical trial by Louisiana State University found watermelon juice may help maintain blood vessel function during periods of elevated blood sugar. Researchers noted that the fruit's antioxidants and amino acids could play a role in heart health.

Low in calories and made up of about 92% water, watermelon also provides hydration, making it a nutritious option during hot weather. —ANI

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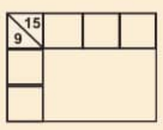
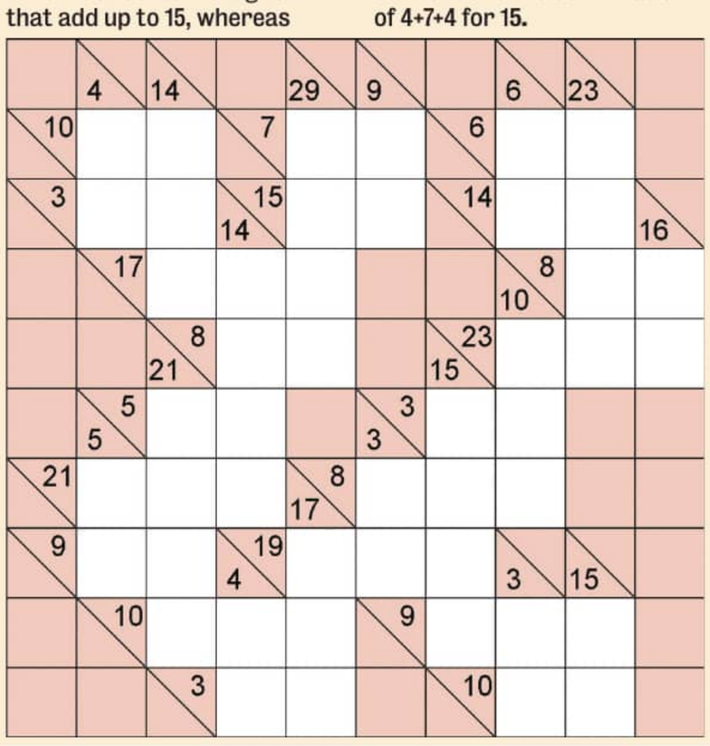
Kakuro

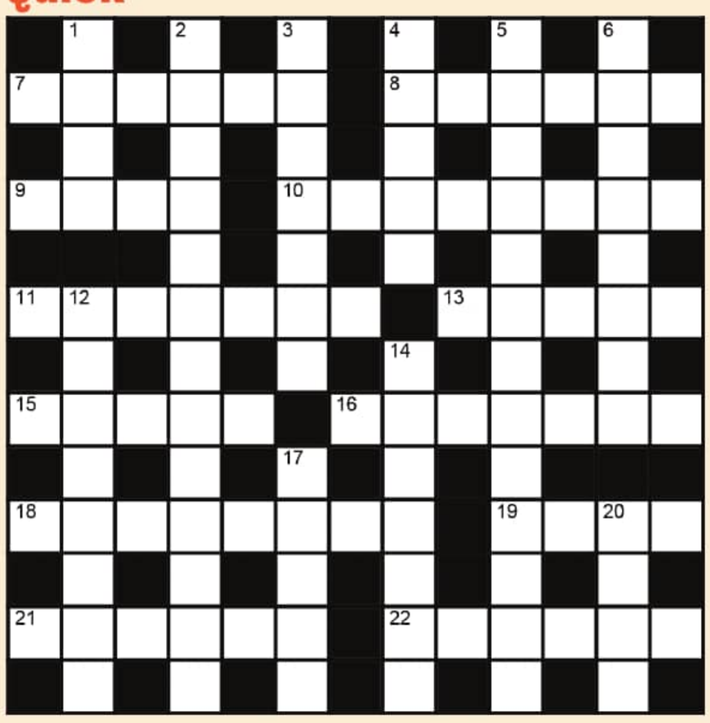
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Playback singer ___ Ghoshal (6)
8 Breathe out ? (6)
9 Group of three (4)
10 Guessed (8)
11 Children's room (7)
13 Extemporize (2-3)
15 Supplant (5)
16 Offend grossly (7)
18 Highly instinctive (8)
19 Auld ___ Syne: days of long ago? (4)
21 Red Indian tents (6)
22 Move restlessly (6)

DOWN

1 India's desert region (4)
2 Rebuilt (13)
3 South Indian river–"vary cue" anagram (7)
4 Blood vessels (5)
5 Scapula (8,5)
6 Claiming or asserting (8)
12 Not fitted (8)
14 Render legally void (7)
17 Recently made (5)
20 Negative votes (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS T

DTKTB IUKT XZ, MHB NCSN UO FXON NCT ZJSET SDL NUPT NCSN NCT NULT VUJJ NXBD.

Linemaro

You are the only thing I need in my Room of Requirement

Mindchow

Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces up, snow is exhilarating; there is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather

Joke of the day

If you love someone, set them free. If they come back, they're probably broke

Loop

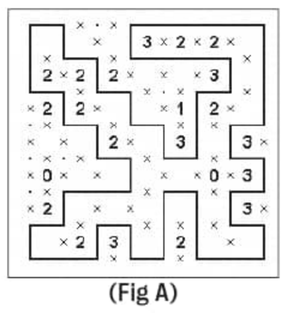
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

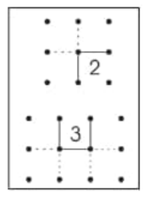
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

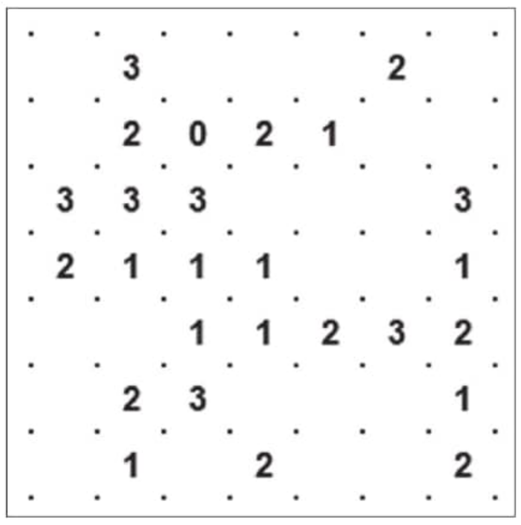
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



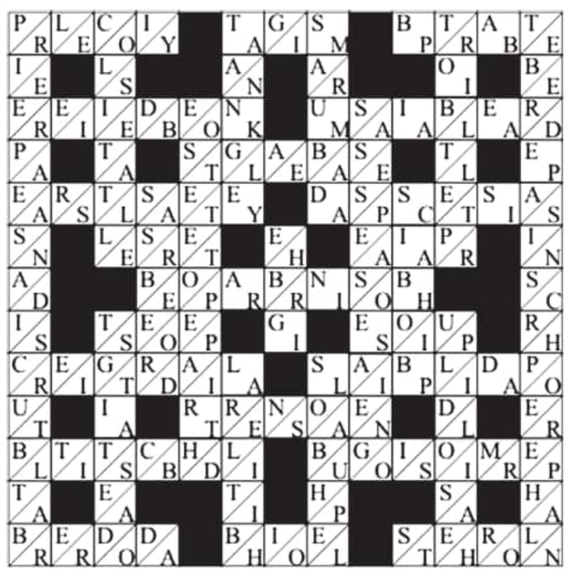
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9 H				

ACROSS

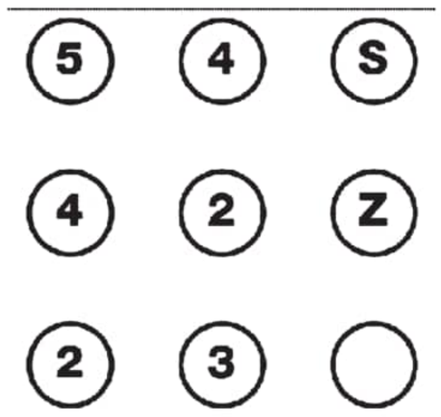
1 Sush H; 6 A tank; 7 Stair; 8 Times; 9 Shlep

DOWN

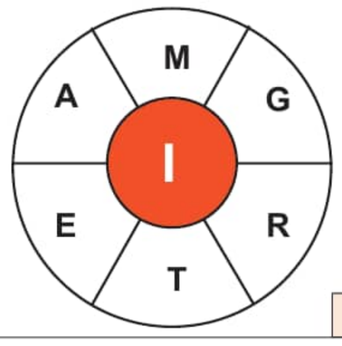
1 SS Hat; 2 As the; 3 Unlit; 4 Skip M; 5 Shear

Mensapuzzle

What goes in the empty circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

22 Average; 25 Good; 28 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4		1		7		8	
		6	5		8	4		
9			2		3			1
2		4				7		8
3		8				6		9
7			8		2			6
		1	9		4	2		
	2		6		5		9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

4 5 7 8

Medium = 3

1 2 3 4

Hard = 6

2 3 6 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

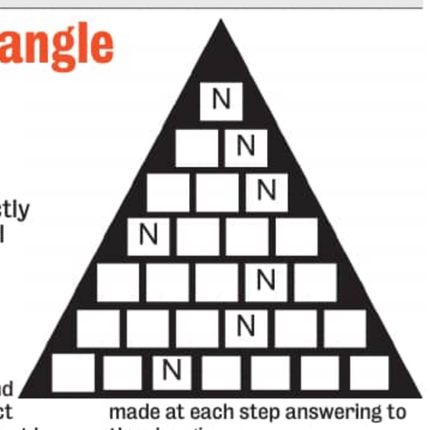
Differences: 1. Man's arm is longer. 2. Cable box wire is missing. 3. Bag is larger. 4. Sweater is different. 5. Arm of chair is longer. 6. Mouth is different.

Riddler

What do you call a sleeping bull?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Not off
3 Male child
4 Facial feature
5 Doughy cake
6 Reproduces exactly
7 Instrument panel

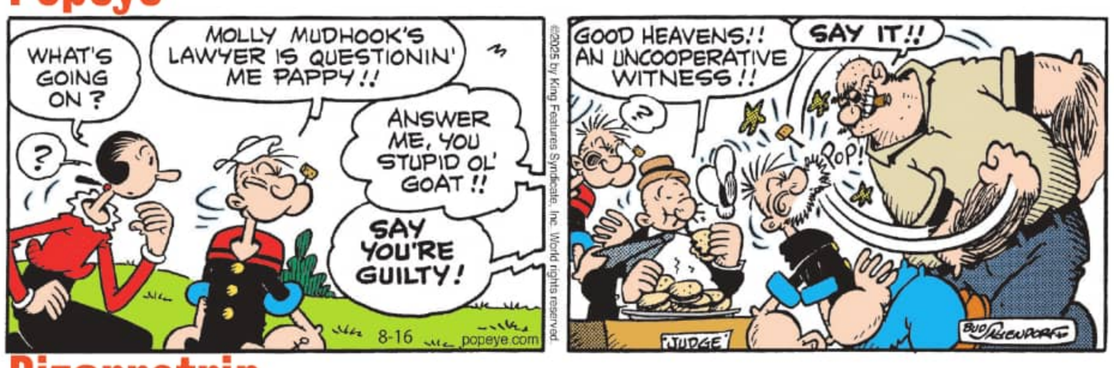


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WHAT'S GOING ON ?
MOLLY MUDHOOK'S LAWYER IS QUESTIONIN' ME PAPPY !!
ANSWER ME, YOU STUPID OL' GOAT !!
SAY YOU'RE GUILTY !
GOOD HEAVENS !! AN UNCOOPERATIVE WITNESS !!
SAY IT !!
POP !
JUDGE
8-16
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Objection. The prosecution is cherry-picking the video evidence to only show my client committing crimes.
Wayno & Piraro 2.5.26
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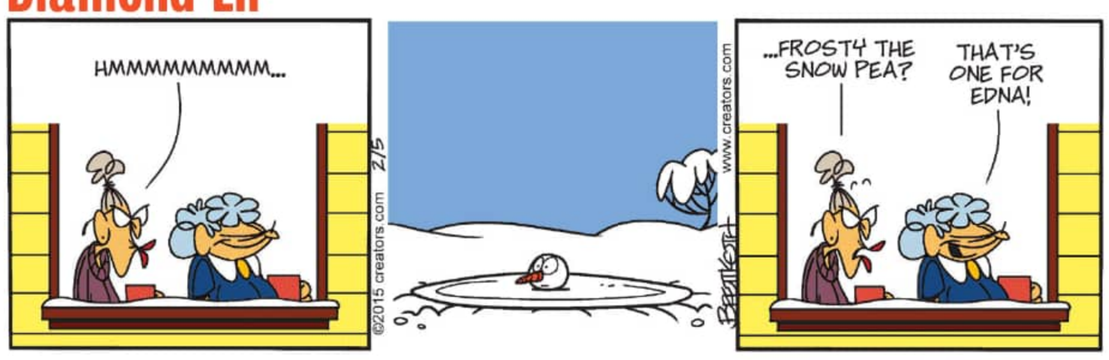
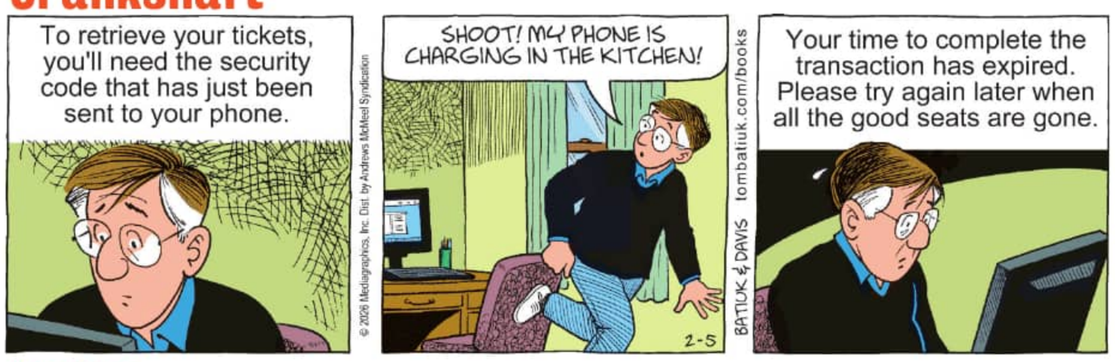
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

YOU DID IT, HEART. YOU GOT A TROPHY IN THE CASE. WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?
HMM... MAYBE A MASCOT COMPETITION?
YEAH, RIGHT! THIS IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT SKILL THAN ACTING.
I'M A PERFORMER! IT CAN'T BE THAT HARD.
THE SUIT WEIGHS 35 POUNDS.
I'LL LEAVE MASCOTTING TO THE PROS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
©COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


To retrieve your tickets, you'll need the security code that has just been sent to your phone.
SHOOT! MY PHONE IS CHARGING IN THE KITCHEN!
Your time to complete the transaction has expired. Please try again later when all the good seats are gone.
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2-5

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Service to others and professional dedication define your year. You will find great satisfaction in doing a job well and helping your colleagues. Pay close attention to your daily habits and nutrition; small improvements lead to major health gains. Your reliability makes you the person everyone turns to. Remember to set boundaries to avoid becoming everyone else's caretaker.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Patience is your greatest ally today. Avoid rushing into a heated argument with a close friend. Instead, channel that fiery energy into a creative project that requires deep, sustained focus.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Luxury calls to you, but stick to your budget. Finding beauty in simple, inexpensive things brings more lasting joy. A home-cooked meal shared with a loved one feels truly divine.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Curiosity leads you down a fascinating rabbit hole of information. Share what you learn with a colleague. Your ability to connect disparate ideas will impress someone in a high position.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional boundaries are important today. Protect your peace by saying no to draining requests. Spend time near water to recharge your spirit and find clarity amidst the surrounding social noise.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Generosity defines your day. Help a friend in need without expecting anything in return. Your warmth acts as a beacon of hope, strengthening the bonds of your most cherished relationships.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Analytical thinking helps you navigate a tricky social situation. Stay objective and avoid taking sides. Your calm demeanor provides a stabilizing influence for everyone involved in the unfolding family drama.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Artistic pursuits bring immense satisfaction. Dedicate time to a hobby that allows you to express your sense of balance. Beauty surrounds you when you look through the eyes of love.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Deep transformation is possible if you let go of an old grudge. Forgiveness is a gift you give yourself. Lighten your emotional load to make room for new, positive experiences.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Philosophical discussions expand your horizons. Engage with people who hold different viewpoints. Learning is a lifelong journey, and today offers a profound lesson in empathy and understanding for your restless soul.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Professional persistence pays off. A project you have nurtured finally shows signs of significant progress. Stay the course; your hard work is being noticed by those who matter most today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Community involvement brings a sense of purpose. Join a local group or volunteer your time. Contributing to the greater good aligns your personal energy with the rhythm of the universe.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Dreams are particularly vivid and carry important messages. Pay attention to your subconscious symbols. Writing down your thoughts upon waking helps you decode the guidance your inner self is offering.

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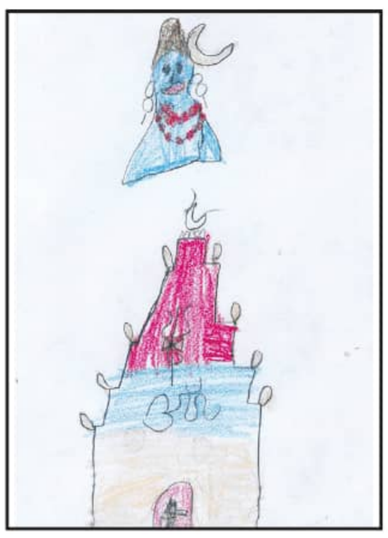
KIDZONE

S Gunisha Singh, Klay Pre-School



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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE

amir, emir, emit, gait, gaiter, gamier, girt, grim, grime, grit, image, irate, item, merit, MIGRATE, mirage, mire, mite, remit, rite, tier, tiger, time, timer, tire, trim

A bulldozer

RIDDLER

S	H	U	S	H
T	A	N	K	A
A	S	T	I	R
S	T	I	M	E
H	E	L	P	S

FAST FIVE

SOLVE IN 1M

=[(10^6)(10^-3)]^1/9
=(10^3)^1/9
=10^1/3

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.

QUOTE UNCODE

0. In rows, each letter is represented by a 2 digit figure, the first digit being the difference between the left and centre numbers, the second digit equals the sum of the two numbers.

SUDOKU

5	4	2	1	6	7	9	8	3
1	3	6	5	9	8	4	7	2
9	8	7	2	4	3	5	6	1
2	9	4	3	5	6	7	1	8
6	1	5	7	8	9	3	2	4
3	7	8	4	2	1	6	5	9
7	5	9	8	3	2	1	4	6
8	6	1	9	7	4	2	3	5
4	2	3	6	1	5	8	9	7

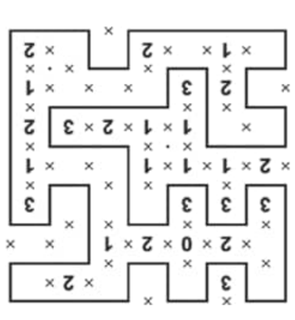
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, On, Son, Nose, Score, Clones, Console.

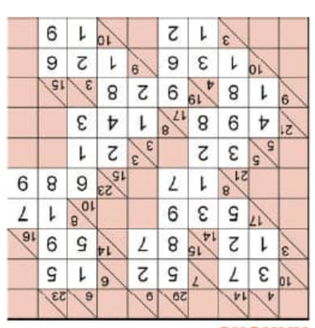
GO FIGURE

Easy
5 + 4 – 7 + 8 = 10
3 × 2 – 4 + 1 = 3
Hard
3 + 2 – 5 + 6 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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